

1. Background

The KRSCP Strategic Leadership Group (SLG) chose to look at adolescent safeguarding with a focus on the Missing Children. The partnership directed the new Independent Scrutineer, Chris Robson, to examine how we are performing, in a multi-agency context. Read more here:

Missing Report

<https://kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/about-kingston-lsrb/subgroups-39/quality-and-innovation-subgroup-102.php>

2. Why it matters - Missing Children is a Nationally recognised safeguarding issue. The number of children who are reported as missing continues to increase along with the non-reporting, resulting in a number of 'invisible' young people who never come to the notice of safeguarding professionals. Over 80,000 missing are children and young people. Of the total number of missing incidents recorded by the police, the highest risk age group is 12- to 17-year-olds. Over half of all missing incidents relate to this age group, with girls being reported missing slightly more often than boys.

7. What is working well?

Multi-agency arrangements for missing children are good across Kingston & Richmond.

The majority of practitioners & managers are aware of professionals' roles & responsibilities across the Partnership. They are confident in their own practice & **view missing as a priority.**

Local leadership is good, with missing children being a priority.

Our audits of 8 young people showed the complexity of the work & opportunities to intervene in **primary school**. Key themes are experiencing domestic abuse, vulnerabilities around Special Educational Needs & school exclusion.

6. KRSCP – Learning Hub activities to support this deep dive theme & event in Jan 2020.

Focus group meetings held with Managers & Practitioners

Children's Voice - focus groups in pilot school & with Children in Care Council
Multi-agency audit of 8 local children

3. National picture

Going Missing should be seen as an indicator that children & young people are at risk of harm, & there are recognised links between missing & mental health issues, homelessness, child sexual exploitation, trafficking, & gang involvement.

Common reasons include:

Conflict, abuse & neglect in the home: more than half of missing children have experienced this & 1 in 5 children felt forced to leave;
Sexual exploitation: 7 in 10 young people who have been sexually exploited have also been reported missing;
Mental health issues: at least 1 in 10 missing children.



Missing
Deep Dive
March 2020

5. Our local MARVE (Multi-Agency Risk & Vulnerability to Exploitation) Panel has

been reviewed to ensure we include the provision for vulnerable young people to be considered until age 25, in-line with the Leaving Care Act 2014. MARVE Terms of Reference & Guidance here: <https://kingstonandrichmondsafeguardingchildrenpartnership.org.uk/news-resources/policies-and-procedures-87/child-exploitation-marve-88.php>

4. Kingston & Richmond Local Picture

First Three Quarters of 2019-20, 168 children & young people were reported missing from home or care a total of 646 times – more children were missing from Richmond;
Fast food outlets are common hotspots;
Some are involved in County Lines



Kingston and Richmond
Safeguarding Children
Partnership